

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Max Shahbazian)
Meeting Date: January 23, 2007

ITEM: 6C

SUBJECT: **International Business Machines Corporation, for the property located at 5600 Cottle Road, San Jose, Santa Clara County – Amendment of Site Cleanup Requirements**

CHRONOLGY: October 1988 - Final Site Cleanup Requirements adopted.
August 2002 - Final Site Cleanup Requirements revised.

DISCUSSION: This item was continued from the December 13, 2006, Board meeting due to the lack of a Board quorum. This amendment incorporates groundwater recharge requirements into the International Business Machine (IBM) site cleanup requirements. The recharge was previously permitted by IBM's individual NPDES permit, which the Board is considering to rescind via item 6A on the Board agenda.

The IMB site is located in south San Jose near the intersection of US-101 and Blossom Hill Road. The Water Board has overseen cleanup of this site since early 1980's. The current groundwater cleanup system consists of 11 groundwater extraction wells and an onsite air stripping system for treating groundwater polluted by volatile organic compounds. After treating the groundwater, IBM reinjects it back into an aquifer beneath the site. This recharge process has been ongoing since 1994. The Tentative Order (Appendix A) contains recharge water cleanup standards, flow limits, and monitoring requirements.

We received only one significant comment from IBM on the Tentative Order (Appendix B). IBM was concerned about its ability to meet tougher effluent limits in the NPDES general permit in the event it needs to resume operation of its off-site extraction wells. We met with IBM representatives in early December 2006 and discussed alternative approaches. We agreed on an approach that we believe addresses their and our concerns. It involves minor changes, which are reflected in the permit-rescission item (item 6A). IBM also requested that we eliminate some other wells from the Self-Monitoring Program (SMP) and revise the SMP to reflect the recent changes in site groundwater monitoring network. As such, we will review IBM's requested changes to the SMP and prepare

a tentative revision to the SMP for public review and comment. We expect the Tentative Order to remain uncontested.

RECOMMEN-
DATION

Adopt the Tentative Order

File No:

43S0056 (MS)

Appendices:

A. Tentative Order

B. Correspondence

C. Location Map

Appendix A

Tentative Order

Appendix B

Correspondence

Appendix C

Location Map